

**America's Great Outdoors**  
**Notes from Listening Session**

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date: April 16, 2010

*President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.*

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Discussion Question 1-4	Comment
1	Need to make conservation relevant to people
3	Need to bring stakeholders to the table
3	Consider urban environment
2	LWCF -- fully fund it and use it strategically
2, 3	Meaningful youth programs and jobs
2, 3	Environmental conservation education
3	Engaging citizens in conducting localized mapping that are then used by them for conservation decision-making
2, 3	USDA-creating economic opportunities

3	Federal support for youth initiatives such as youth stream monitoring
3	Create vibrant open spaces that people can use
3	Multi-federal approach for support is more effective--getting many agencies together for supporting a local initiative
3	Early exposure to the outdoors builds life-long appreciation
3	Corporate partnerships with Toyota to create fellowships for the disadvantaged
3	more funding needed for conservation initiatives from multiple sources--Federal, private, lotteries, tax credits
3	Best practices for developing metrics about conservation initiatives -- improves chances for knowing audience and developing relevant responses and programs
1	End goal of education efforts should not be to just to create conservation knowledge and awareness but to change peoples behavior-hospitalized children holding insects had positive experience that were profoundly poignant to those witnessing it
1	Value of partnering with the travel and tourism industry
3	Some degree of land restriction is positive -- there can be negative consequences to opening access to all lands
2	The National Agricultural Land Study was a very important study -- another study is needed
1	Support private lands conservation efforts -- some of the most important conservation of land is by the private land owners
2, 3	Extremely important to know the historical context and where we fit into it today
3	When working on a conservation issue or project, government should facilitate dialogue, don't talk to groups individually, collaborate with groups collectively
2, 3	Get kids connected with the land, with being outdoors, with nature at an early age. Teach kids how important conservation is, make it real and doable to kids, make connections between local, small scale activity and the wider good.
1	Engage young people by giving them concrete tasks, internships and/or jobs. They can do it and will feel accomplished and invested through this direct work. These experiences can also be life changing and create powerful stories on an individual level.
3	Use the political process to build momentum and consensus. For example, put a ballot question on to buy land, levy a tax, direct funds, to preserve open space. This could include

	ballot questions regarding retrofitting or expanding infrastructure to access green space.
1	Don't forget private land owners when considering the map of open or green space in the country. Encourage conservation easements or other tool usage to promote preservation by private citizens. These lands can informally be part of migration corridors and could serve as a critical resource to connect important lands.
2	Wilderness society: working at the right scale/letting people see themselves -- allows buy-in of shared and different values. Connections can be seen. Too small scale can be difficult
1	Florida Trails Association: Connect via local chapters. Alliance program: allows youth groups to become involved. Gateway program: volunteers, org, and community. Brings economic impacts
1	Columbia Land Trust (OR): ways to engage private investors, strictly government route is not always successful. Land trust can build different relationships with private owners
3	Northface Co. (Outdoor industries) Outdoor Nation -- summit in NYC's Central Park -- Activities and youth leaders, want to connect kids
3	National Wildlife Refuge Foundation: People get ownership when there are things to do and use (e.g. bathrooms, shade, programs). Importance of WOW! Movement
3	Legacy of stewardship through generations. Have to talk about parents and youth together
1	Kinds are over programmed -- need for a resume by 16 years old
2	No public transportation, no affordable transportation, entrance fees
2	Being outdoors is not a priority, get DOE and local school systems involved
2	Rangers bore kids to death. Need to be cooperative work -- rangers come to communities
1	Need a master calendar to allow everyone to build together
2	Private lands need tax exempt revenue bonds, estate tax provisions, build partner capacity
3	Good science comes first and then resolve social conflict
1	Put rangers in urban areas to form a connection
3	LWCF criteria should recognize projects that have partnership components
2	Need to expand the AGO conversation and replicate on a regular basis
1	Be more imaginative and flexible, unclear regulations and non-green regulations, offer access to federal employees by youth groups and partners

3	need federal agencies to treat states as equals
3	Federal government needs to facilitate these types of gatherings/discussions 3-4 times per year throughout the country
2	Partnerships with local governments; organization and planning should occur at a regionalized level with federal support
2, 3	Youth: make connecting with nature and the outdoors a priority when they're young
2, 3	The opportunity to connect with the outdoors is not available for many people; accessibility
3	Most organizations don't have enough funding to expand their activities to help facilitate the goals of AGO
2, 3	Get the private sector involved in these initiatives; coordinate agencies and groups on different projects to increase efficient use of time and resources
3	Redefining what the "great outdoors" means
3	Working at the right scale is critical in order to create a sense of community and solidarity as people are more likely to feel an emotional connection to projects that directly impact their own communities; larger scale projects can seem impersonal and lead to disaffection among target audiences/groups
3	In reaching out to minority groups and youth, it is extremely important to be able to relate to their situations and experiences -- most programs that attempt to connect with youth and minorities really fail to understand those populations, which makes them less likely to participate in similar events in the future
3	Very few entry level positions in conservation related fields exist due to lack of funding; creates a barrier to the involvement of younger demographic
3	Family legacy is a key component to consider when conducting outreach; hard to talk about youth without talking about parents. The nature of environmental stewardship is a multi-generational concept so we should try to get families involved in activities; existing societal rules work against minority groups such as Latinos that congregate with large families
3	Make state governments equal to federal government in planning process. Agencies have to train together if they're working on the same projects; current system has all agencies training separately, which doesn't make any sense
3	Work towards efficiency maximization by making all land management plans available online so that agencies, state, local, and federal governments, and private sector entities can view ongoing projects and coordinate efforts. Currently too much unnecessary overlap of efforts

	and resource and time expenditure on various projects due to lack of communication
1	Social media: Cal State Parks Foundation example -- threatened park closure, drew in members. Way to reach people short on time or out of our loop. Twitter, inexpensive, technology is not the enemy, SCA success with online
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2	Landscape conservation: 1976 Chattahoochee Recreation Area, small land access points to H2O, engaged public in forming conservation vision, develop "grand plans", engage communities in planning proves -- deeper "outside the box", find new sources of partners e.g. academia, invite pvt. Landowners, local govt as part of "grand plans" -- big but doable
1	Communities of color: veer from traditional vols., long term mentoring -- start young, grade school, recruit teens as teachers/mentors, conservation big brothers/big sisters, encourage higher education -- getting children of color into sciences, not a short term process, can we reach out to other cultures for idea?, tribal salmon communities -- heavy on restoration efforts, selective harvest of hatchery fish, education early of hatchery markings, LA Latino communities, problems with inconsistent funding, need to better integrate into curricula to maintain consistency
2, 3	Service learning: integrate science, conservation, history and cultural values into curriculum, ways to teach math, science, national heritage; example: students at Harper's Ferry used modern media to tell the story of John Brown
3	Better federal partners: "extending the reach", listen to the people most affected, e.g. monuments, most people consider themselves good stewards, listen to urban America
2, 3	Private lands conservation: NRCS = assistance only/land owner does conservation, half the land in age., could use more employees/range conservationists to work with farmers, one place where additional public employees would be welcome, landscape conservation/private lands -- flexibility in funding and programs, need creativity/loosen reg's that stand in the way, success -- FERC and state examples of creative interp. and use of regs., need message from agency that applicants need to work together to develop a creative solution
1	Transportation: NPS/other agencies could provide buses, require states to create envt. Literacy campaign/curricula; nature bridge -- public/private partnership, 40,000 children/year, continuum of care to involve children in the outdoors, keep listening -- partner in your listening efforts, middle, high school -- our schools are not comfortable with exploration and risk

3	Reinvigorate partnerships with urban parks and local conservation systems -- need fully integrated systems at all levels of government
1	Add for-profit businesses to listening tour, use business principals -- park fees, increase inside service fees
2	Make principals of conservation less esoteric -- connect all principals
1	Dedicated reliable funds outside of appropriated \$ to support partnerships
1	Need consultation process/infrastructure with DOI.FS for concerns to be aired before decisions are made
3	Portion of land and conservation fund needs to go to urban parks
3	Concerns with overgrazing (increasing elk population). Concerns regarding: bucillois to Cattle Agency with responsibility?
3	Federal government to help natural resource agencies engage/develop structure for youth to bring youth to the woodlands (need partnerships in conservation education curriculum -- don't need money)
1	Ducks Unlimited web site -- youth activities/education. High school sponsored events -- run by kids. College chapters -- raise funds for conservation efforts
2	Challenge to protect larger landscapes -- need federal agencies to work better together and pooling funds successfully
2	Rural legacy program -- block grant model -- administered by nonprofits in an area
2	American Outdoors Commission -- local governments will maintain -- city/counties will make it happen
1	Partnerships-policies/agreements becoming very complex -- agencies cannot process them -- nonprofits work in similar ways/simplified ways with various federal agencies
2	Need to protect wildlife corridors legislation (ex: National Trail Act) -- need national restoration policy -- restore landscapes
3	work with 14-17 year olds -- corporation networks; involve youth -- convert them to stewards
1	Wonderful Outdoor World -- people respect parks; educational programs, campgrounds, no connection with NPS, show people there is a bigger world than immediate residential areas, use urban parks, employees from communities they serve

3	in-park science programs, build challenge courses, urban camping programs, canoeing programs, less traditional, training inner city kids in green careers
2	empowering grass roots organizations that are in communities, fresh air fun -- expose kids to a new world
1	Meet kids where they are -- do something that is meaningful, they need a job, real skills training, advancement opportunities
3	Urban parks cost more -- no federal funding for decades. Need partnerships with federal agencies to break down agency barriers
3	Engage the entire family, connect with kids at a younger age, kids with parents, don't assume you know what is best
2	Parents don't know how to camp, state program to show parents how to camp so they can take their kids
2, 3	Old days fed would provide technical staff to assist locals
2, 3	Opportunities for information exchange; where do you get federal funding?
3	Federal agencies duplicating work, structure -- work with companies that have volunteer days
2, 3	don't wait 100+ years to have this type of discussion, trickle down from event, put spotlight of partners, volunteers
3	Technical assistance/best management practices
3	Communities to work with all federal agencies at once, one stop shopping
3	School based programs
3	Change the language that we use to talk about youth, remove artificial barriers
3	Foster conversations between wildlife, environmental, private property
3	Fund not just infrastructure, but demonstration projects/programs
3	Takes more than talk or messages -- need action, collaboration between PUT landowners and local, state, and federal governments, PUT landowners essential to stewardship
1	Expand opportunities on federal lands, more than just sportsmen, make opportunities to do other things
1	Environmental education -- people are not aware of opportunities around home -- take

	information to the people. If people don't understand their own environment, they likely will not care about a distance environment
3	Out of work, out of school young people need to be a part of this initiative ages 18-24, and people of color should be at the forefront
2	We first need to build up urban recreation in cities, where people can have a safe outdoors environment close to home
1	If we are going to have open spaces we also need places to live and work and conserving old homes and buildings as National Historic preservation is key
2, 3	Long distance scenic trails require interagency cooperation and many partners but they are also great ways to connect communities, habitats, and people
3	Bankers under 35 want clean technology conservation and want to see these initiatives make money, encourage great leaders to promote these things in the economy
2, 3	Make sure all USDA programs are accessible to all users -- how can different groups work together to produce community food and conservation plans including rural gardens
1	Co-experience -- strength of relationships between executive directors in senior organizations; personal relationships of what should be competitors override competitive nature and allow groups to coordinate and cooperate
3	piggyback where collaborations are happening and bridge natural resources, rurality America is losing economic battle -- they are losing jobs and not reaping the benefits of conservation, conservation is costly and they don't get the results
1	2008 Farm Bill -- socially disadvantaged farmers formed an alliance and made sure that conservation came back to communities with 30% advanced pay that was advanced to people/groups who could not afford to start conservation efforts on their own
2	Don't compete with programs that are already doing good things -- just because federal government doesn't know about it, doesn't mean it's not a good program
1	Federal government put money out there and have organizations competent for the money, giving them incentive to follow AGO initiatives on the ground level and they receive more funding for programs that align with AGO goals
1	Federal government has lack of real relationships -- system is hierarchical and transient, fed government is everywhere but nowhere, federal structures need to engage local groups and people more steadily
3	Conflict among agencies-need integrated regional vision

3	Govt needs to strike a balance among conflicting uses in sensitive areas
3	HUD should be present - need to provide housing before we discuss conservation
1	New "partnership mode" - need training and funding
2	Opportunities around climate change - money for conservation can contribute to carbon sequestration
2	Wants to see federal government as better partner
2	Leverage market place; get grant money faster; web pages and transparency
1	Importance of community gardens
2	Connect youth to the outdoors through communities
3	"Prioritization" - work on water issues
1	Non-point pollutants focused on quality/health environment
3	Farm Bill is where we can make most gains for conservation
2	Conservation and stewardship hampered by partisanship - tax credits needed
1	Children need environmental literacy
3	Loss of public lands funding to support infrastructure - "Green Zing" (green experience online)
3	People connect through local parks - promote more bond initiatives
2	Bring core values to people; motivate through education
2, 3	Build trails on abandoned rail corridors
2, 3	Engage volunteers to work and adopt trail sections
3	Tax inducements work great as market transaction for conservation
2, 3	Landscape scale conservation - knit together landscapes
3	Make public lands public through land access
3	Link youth with conservation
3	Restore large wetland complex

3	Science is important - good data about what is happening to our resources
3	Lack of research on experience changes behavior
3	Engage people in such a way that they understand and believe they can do something about conservation - connect via pride in the outdoors
3	Transportation to get youth involved - major issue in urban areas
1	Urban green spaces reduce crime
1	Federal grants don't reach small, non-profits
3	Parks need public awareness campaigns (PSA) to increase stewardship, usage, ownership
2	Urban farming
1	Programs need more direct purpose - i.e. Latino Youth Conservation Corps
2, 3	Use social media - meet young people where they are; people-to-people interaction; cultivate "real" relationships
3	Need to make conservation relevant to people
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3	Opportunities around climate change - money for conservation can contribute to carbon sequestration

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2	Transportation to get youth involved - major issue in urban areas

1	Urban green spaces reduce crime
2	Federal grants don't reach small, non-profits
3	Parks need public awareness campaigns (PSA) to increase stewardship, usage, ownership
1	Urban farming
3	Programs need more direct purpose - i.e. Latino Youth Conservation Corps
2	Use social media - meet young people where they are; people-to-people interaction; cultivate "real" relationships
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2, 3	Meaningful youth programs and jobs
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2, 3	USDA-creating economic opportunities
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3	Multi-federal approach for support is more effective--getting many agencies together for supporting a local initiative
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1	Value of partnering with the travel and tourism industry
3	Some degree of land restriction is positive -- there can be negative consequences to opening access to all lands
2	The National Agricultural Land Study was a very important study -- another study is needed
1	Support private lands conservation efforts -- some of the most important conservation of land is by the private land owners
2, 3	Extremely important to know the historical context and where we fit into it today
3	When working on a conservation issue or project, government should facilitate dialogue, don't talk to groups individually, collaborate with groups collectively
2, 3	Get kids connected with the land, with being outdoors, with nature at an early age. Teach kids how important conservation is, make it real and doable to kids, make connections between local, small scale activity and the wider good.
1	Engage young people by giving them concrete tasks, internships and/or jobs. They can do it and will feel accomplished and invested through this direct work. These experiences can also be life changing and create powerful stories on an individual level.
3	Use the political process to build momentum and consensus. For example, put a ballot question on to buy land, levy a tax, direct funds, to preserve open space. This could include ballot questions regarding retrofitting or expanding infrastructure to access green space.
1	Don't forget private land owners when considering the map of open or green space in the country. Encourage conservation easements or other tool usage to promote preservation by private citizens. These lands can informally be part of migration corridors and could serve as a critical resource to connect important lands.
2	Wilderness society: working at the right scale/letting people see themselves -- allows buy-in of shared and different values. Connections can be seen. Too small scale can be difficult
1	Florida Trails Association: Connect via local chapters. Alliance program: allows youth groups to become involved. Gateway program: volunteers, org, and community. Brings economic impacts
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3	Northface Co. (Outdoor industries) Outdoor Nation -- summit in NYC's Central Park -- Activities and youth leaders, want to connect kids
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3	Legacy of stewardship through generations. Have to talk about parents and youth together
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2	Private lands need tax exempt revenue bonds, estate tax provisions, build partner capacity
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3	Federal government needs to facilitate these types of gatherings/discussions 3-4 times per year throughout the country
2	Partnerships with local governments; organization and planning should occur at a regionalized level with federal support
2, 3	Youth: make connecting with nature and the outdoors a priority when they're young
2, 3	The opportunity to connect with the outdoors is not available for many people; accessibility
3	Most organizations don't have enough funding to expand their activities to help facilitate the goals of AGO
2, 3	Get the private sector involved in these initiatives; coordinate agencies and groups on

	different projects to increase efficient use of time and resources
3	Redefining what the "great outdoors" means
3	Working at the right scale is critical in order to create a sense of community and solidarity as people are more likely to feel an emotional connection to projects that directly impact their own communities; larger scale projects can seem impersonal and lead to disaffection among target audiences/groups
3	In reaching out to minority groups and youth, it is extremely important to be able to relate to their situations and experiences -- most programs that attempt to connect with youth and minorities really fail to understand those populations, which makes them less likely to participate in similar events in the future
3	Very few entry level positions in conservation related fields exist due to lack of funding; creates a barrier to the involvement of younger demographic
3	Family legacy is a key component to consider when conducting outreach; hard to talk about youth without talking about parents. The nature of environmental stewardship is a multi-generational concept so we should try to get families involved in activities; existing societal rules work against minority groups such as Latinos that congregate with large families
3	Make state governments equal to federal government in planning process. Agencies have to train together if they're working on the same projects; current system has all agencies training separately, which doesn't make any sense
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	e.g. academia, invite pvt. Landowners, local govt as part of "grand plans" -- big but doable
1	Communities of color: veer from traditional vols., long term mentoring -- start young, grade school, recruit teens as teachers/mentors, conservation big brothers/big sisters, encourage higher education -- getting children of color into sciences, not a short term process, can we reach out to other cultures for idea?, tribal salmon communities -- heavy on restoration efforts, selective harvest of hatchery fish, education early of hatchery markings, LA Latino communities, problems with inconsistent funding, need to better integrate into curricula to maintain consistency
2, 3	Service learning: integrate science, conservation, history and cultural values into curriculum, ways to teach math, science, national heritage; example: students at Harper's Ferry used modern media to tell the story of John Brown
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3	Reinvigorate partnerships with urban parks and local conservation systems -- need fully integrated systems at all levels of government
1	Add for-profit businesses to listening tour, use business principals -- park fees, increase inside service fees
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3	Portion of land and conservation fund needs to go to urban parks

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3	Federal government to help natural resource agencies engage/develop structure for youth to bring youth to the woodlands (need partnerships in conservation education curriculum -- don't need money)
1	Ducks Unlimited web site -- youth activities/education. High school sponsored events -- run by kids. College chapters -- raise funds for conservation efforts
2	Challenge to protect larger landscapes -- need federal agencies to work better together and pooling funds successfully
2	Rural legacy program -- block grant model -- administered by nonprofits in an area
2	American Outdoors Commission -- local governments will maintain -- city/counties will make it happen
1	Partnerships-policies/agreements becoming very complex -- agencies cannot process them -- nonprofits work in similar ways/simplified ways with various federal agencies
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1	Meet kids where they are -- do something that is meaningful, they need a job, real skills training, advancement opportunities
3	Urban parks cost more -- no federal funding for decades. Need partnerships with federal agencies to break down agency barriers
3	Engage the entire family, connect with kids at a younger age, kids with parents, don't assume you know what is best

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2, 3	Old days fed would provide technical staff to assist locals
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3	Federal agencies duplicating work, structure -- work with companies that have volunteer days
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3	Out of work, out of school young people need to be a part of this initiative ages 18-24, and people of color should be at the forefront
2	We first need to build up urban recreation in cities, where people can have a safe outdoors environment close to home
1	If we are going to have open spaces we also need places to live and work and conserving old homes and buildings as National Historic preservation is key
2, 3	Long distance scenic trails require interagency cooperation and many partners but they are also great ways to connect communities, habitats, and people

3	Bankers under 35 want clean technology conservation and want to see these initiatives make money, encourage great leaders to promote these things in the economy
2, 3	Make sure all USDA programs are accessible to all users -- how can different groups work together to produce community food and conservation plans including rural gardens
1	Co-experience -- strength of relationships between executive directors in senior organizations; personal relationships of what should be competitors override competitive nature and allow groups to coordinate and cooperate
3	piggyback where collaborations are happening and bridge natural resources, rurally America is losing economic battle -- they are losing jobs and not reaping the benefits of conservation, conservation is costly and they don't get the results
1	2008 Farm Bill -- socially disadvantaged farmers formed an alliance and made sure that conservation came back to communities with 30% advanced pay that was advanced to people/groups who could not afford to start conservation efforts on their own
2	Don't compete with programs that are already doing good things -- just because federal government doesn't know bout it, doesn't mean it's not a good program
1	Federal government put money out there and have organizations competent for the money, giving them incentive to follow AGO initiatives on the ground level and they receive more funding for programs that align with AGO goals
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1	End goal of education efforts should not be to just to create conservation knowledge and awareness but to change peoples behavior-hospitalized children holding insects had positive experience that were profoundly poignant to those witnessing it
1	Value of partnering with the travel and tourism industry
3	Some degree of land restriction is positive -- there can be negative consequences to opening access to all lands
2	The National Agricultural Land Study was a very important study -- another study is needed
1	Support private lands conservation efforts -- some of the most important conservation of land is by the private land owners
2, 3	Extremely important to know the historical context and where we fit into it today
3	When working on a conservation issue or project, government should facilitate dialogue,

	don't talk to groups individually, collaborate with groups collectively
2, 3	Get kids connected with the land, with being outdoors, with nature at an early age. Teach kids how important conservation is, make it real and doable to kids, make connections between local, small scale activity and the wider good.
1	Engage young people by giving them concrete tasks, internships and/or jobs. They can do it and will feel accomplished and invested through this direct work. These experiences can also be life changing and create powerful stories on an individual level.
3	Use the political process to build momentum and consensus. For example, put a ballot question on to buy land, levy a tax, direct funds, to preserve open space. This could include ballot questions regarding retrofitting or expanding infrastructure to access green space.
1	Don't forget private land owners when considering the map of open or green space in the country. Encourage conservation easements or other tool usage to promote preservation by private citizens. These lands can informally be part of migration corridors and could serve as a critical resource to connect important lands.
2	Wilderness society: working at the right scale/letting people see themselves -- allows buy-in of shared and different values. Connections can be seen. Too small scale can be difficult
1	Florida Trails Association: Connect via local chapters. Alliance program: allows youth groups to become involved. Gateway program: volunteers, org, and community. Brings economic impacts
1	Columbia Land Trust (OR): ways to engage private investors, strictly government route is not always successful. Land trust can build different relationships with private owners
3	Northface Co. (Outdoor industries) Outdoor Nation -- summit in NYC's Central Park -- Activities and youth leaders, want to connect kids
3	National Wildlife Refuge Foundation: People get ownership when there are things to do and use (e.g. bathrooms, shade, programs). Importance of WOW! Movement
3	Legacy of stewardship through generations. Have to talk about parents and youth together
1	Kids are over programmed -- need for a resume by 16 years old
2	No public transportation, no affordable transportation, entrance fees
2	Being outdoors is not a priority, get DOE and local school systems involved
2	Rangers bore kids to death. Need to be cooperative work -- rangers come to communities
1	Need a master calendar to allow everyone to build together

2	Private lands need tax exempt revenue bonds, estate tax provisions, build partner capacity
3	Good science comes first and then resolve social conflict
1	Put rangers in urban areas to form a connection
3	LWCF criteria should recognize projects that have partnership components
2	Need to expand the AGO conversation and replicate on a regular basis
1	Be more imaginative and flexible, unclear regulations and non-green regulations, offer access to federal employees by youth groups and partners
3	need federal agencies to treat states as equals
3	Federal government needs to facilitate these types of gatherings/discussions 3-4 times per year throughout the country
2	Partnerships with local governments; organization and planning should occur at a regionalized level with federal support
2, 3	Youth: make connecting with nature and the outdoors a priority when they're young
2, 3	The opportunity to connect with the outdoors is not available for many people; accessibility
3	Most organizations don't have enough funding to expand their activities to help facilitate the goals of AGO
2, 3	Get the private sector involved in these initiatives; coordinate agencies and groups on different projects to increase efficient use of time and resources
3	Redefining what the "great outdoors" means
3	Working at the right scale is critical in order to create a sense of community and solidarity as people are more likely to feel an emotional connection to projects that directly impact their own communities; larger scale projects can seem impersonal and lead to disaffection among target audiences/groups
3	In reaching out to minority groups and youth, it is extremely important to be able to relate to their situations and experiences -- most programs that attempt to connect with youth and minorities really fail to understand those populations, which makes them less likely to participate in similar events in the future
3	Very few entry level positions in conservation related fields exist due to lack of funding; creates a barrier to the involvement of younger demographic

3	Family legacy is a key component to consider when conducting outreach; hard to talk about youth without talking about parents. The nature of environmental stewardship is a multi-generational concept so we should try to get families involved in activities; existing societal rules work against minority groups such as Latinos that congregate with large families
3	Make state governments equal to federal government in planning process. Agencies have to train together if they're working on the same projects; current system has all agencies training separately, which doesn't make any sense
3	Work towards efficiency maximization by making all land management plans available online so that agencies, state, local, and federal governments, and private sector entities can view ongoing projects and coordinate efforts. Currently too much unnecessary overlap of efforts and resource and time expenditure on various projects due to lack of communication
1	Social media: Cal State Parks Foundation example -- threatened park closure, drew in members. Way to reach people short on time or out of our loop. Twitter, inexpensive, technology is not the enemy, SCA success with online
1	Restoration: Tribal/NRCS joint effort, successful stream restoration, BOR/BPA, youth engagement
3	Lack of agricultural connection to land at family level; success --> guest ranches, wildlife training during recreation/fun
2	Landscape conservation: 1976 Chattahoochee Recreation Area, small land access points to H2O, engaged public in forming conservation vision, develop "grand plans", engage communities in planning proves -- deeper "outside the box", find new sources of partners e.g. academia, invite pvt. Landowners, local govt as part of "grand plans" -- big but doable
1	Communities of color: veer from traditional vols., long term mentoring -- start young, grade school, recruit teens as teachers/mentors, conservation big brothers/big sisters, encourage higher education -- getting children of color into sciences, not a short term process, can we reach out to other cultures for idea?, tribal salmon communities -- heavy on restoration efforts, selective harvest of hatchery fish, education early of hatchery markings, LA Latino communities, problems with inconsistent funding, need to better integrate into curricula to maintain consistency
2, 3	Service learning: integrate science, conservation, history and cultural values into curriculum, ways to teach math, science, national heritage; example: students at Harper's Ferry used modern media to tell the story of John Brown
3	Better federal partners: "extending the reach", listen to the people most affected, e.g. monuments, most people consider themselves good stewards, listen to urban America

2, 3	Private lands conservation: NRCS = assistance only/land owner does conservation, half the land in age., could use more employees/range conservationists to work with farmers, one place where additional public employees would be welcome, landscape conservation/private lands -- flexibility in funding and programs, need creativity/loosen reg's that stand in the way, success -- FERC and state examples of creative interp. and use of regs., need message from agency that applicants need to work together to develop a creative solution
1	Transportation: NPS/other agencies could provide buses, require states to create envt. Literacy campaign/curricula; nature bridge -- public/private partnership, 40,000 children/year, continuum of care to involve children in the outdoors, keep listening -- partner in your listening efforts, middle, high school -- our schools are not comfortable with exploration and risk
3	Reinvigorate partnerships with urban parks and local conservation systems -- need fully integrated systems at all levels of government
1	Add for-profit businesses to listening tour, use business principals -- park fees, increase inside service fees
2	Make principals of conservation less esoteric -- connect all principals
1	Dedicated reliable funds outside of appropriated \$ to support partnerships
1	Need consultation process/infrastructure with DOI.FS for concerns to be aired before decisions are made
3	Portion of land and conservation fund needs to go to urban parks
3	Concerns with overgrazing (increasing elk population). Concerns regarding: bucillois to Cattle Agency with responsibility?
3	Federal government to help natural resource agencies engage/develop structure for youth to bring youth to the woodlands (need partnerships in conservation education curriculum -- don't need money)
1	Ducks Unlimited web site -- youth activities/education. High school sponsored events -- run by kids. College chapters -- raise funds for conservation efforts
2	Challenge to protect larger landscapes -- need federal agencies to work better together and pooling funds successfully
2	Rural legacy program -- block grant model -- administered by nonprofits in an area
2	American Outdoors Commission -- local governments will maintain -- city/counties will make it happen

1	Partnerships-policies/agreements becoming very complex -- agencies cannot process them -- nonprofits work in similar ways/simplified ways with various federal agencies
2	Need to protect wildlife corridors legislation (ex: National Trail Act) -- need national restoration policy -- restore landscapes
3	work with 14-17 year olds -- corporation networks; involve youth -- convert them to stewards
1	Wonderful Outdoor World -- people respect parks; educational programs, campgrounds, no connection with NPS, show people there is a bigger world than immediate residential areas, use urban parks, employees from communities they serve
3	in-park science programs, build challenge courses, urban camping programs, canoeing programs, less traditional, training inner city kids in green careers
2	empowering grass roots organizations that are in communities, fresh air fun -- expose kids to a new world
1	Meet kids where they are -- do something that is meaningful, they need a job, real skills training, advancement opportunities
3	Urban parks cost more -- no federal funding for decades. Need partnerships with federal agencies to break down agency barriers
3	Engage the entire family, connect with kids at a younger age, kids with parents, don't assume you know what is best
2	Parents don't know how to camp, state program to show parents how to camp so they can take their kids
2, 3	Old days fed would provide technical staff to assist locals
2, 3	Opportunities for information exchange; where do you get federal funding?
3	Federal agencies duplicating work, structure -- work with companies that have volunteer days
2, 3	don't wait 100+ years to have this type of discussion, trickle down from event, put spotlight of partners, volunteers
3	Technical assistance/best management practices
3	Communities to work with all federal agencies at once, one stop shopping
3	School based programs

3	Change the language that we use to talk about youth, remove artificial barriers
3	Foster conversations between wildlife, environmental, private property
3	Fund not just infrastructure, but demonstration projects/programs
3	Takes more than talk or messages -- need action, collaboration between PUT landowners and local, state, and federal governments, PUT landowners essential to stewardship
1	Expand opportunities on federal lands, more than just sportsmen, make opportunities to do other things
1	Environmental education -- people are not aware of opportunities around home -- take information to the people. If people don't understand their own environment, they likely will not care about a distance environment
3	Out of work, out of school young people need to be a part of this initiative ages 18-24, and people of color should be at the forefront
2	We first need to build up urban recreation in cities, where people can have a safe outdoors environment close to home
1	If we are going to have open spaces we also need places to live and work and conserving old homes and buildings as National Historic preservation is key
2, 3	Long distance scenic trails require interagency cooperation and many partners but they are also great ways to connect communities, habitats, and people
3	Bankers under 35 want clean technology conservation and want to see these initiatives make money, encourage great leaders to promote these things in the economy
2, 3	Make sure all USDA programs are accessible to all users -- how can different groups work together to produce community food and conservation plans including rural gardens
1	Co-experience -- strength of relationships between executive directors in senior organizations; personal relationships of what should be competitors override competitive nature and allow groups to coordinate and cooperate





